III. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical formulation for extended release of buprenorphine from microspheres, said formulation made by steps comprising: admixing PLGA having a first specific viscosity between about 0.01 and about 0.31 dL/g with PLGA having a second specific viscosity between about 0.40 and about 0.88 dL/g to form a PLGA mixture; admixing the PLGA mixture with a halogenated organic solvent to form a PLGA-halogenated organic solvent mixture; admixing the PLGA-halogenated organic solvent mixture with buprenorphine to form a buprenorphine-PLGA-halogenated organic solvent mixture; admixing a buffered aqueous solution of PVA with the buprenorphine-PLGA-halogenated organic solvent mixture to form an emulsion comprising microspheres, said microspheres comprising buprenorphine; recovering at least one of said microspheres from the emulsion.

2. (Original) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 1, wherein the buprenorphine with which the PLGA-halogenated organic solvent mixture is admixed comprises buprenorphine free base.

3. (Original) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 2, wherein the buprenorphine with which the PLGA-halogenated organic solvent mixture is admixed consists essentially of buprenorphine free base.

4. (Original) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 1, wherein the buffered aqueous solution of PVA comprises phosphate.

5. (Original) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 1, wherein the concentration of PVA in the buffered aqueous solution of PVA is about 0.1% (w/v).

6. (Original) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 1, wherein the pH of the buffered aqueous solution of PVA is between about 6.8 and about 8.0.

7. (Original) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 6, wherein the pH of the buffered aqueous solution of PVA is about 7.4.

8. (Original) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 4, wherein the buffered aqueous solution of PVA comprises at least one of the group consisting of sodium phosphate and potassium phosphate.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 9 1, wherein the first specific viscosity is between about 0.12 and about 0.20 dL/g and the second specific viscosity is between about 0.48 and about 0.80 dL/g.

11. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 10, wherein the first specific viscosity is between about 0.14 and about 0.18 dL/g and the second specific viscosity is between about 0.56 and about 0.72 dL/g.

12. (Original) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 11, wherein the first specific viscosity is about 0.16 dL/g and the second specific viscosity is about 0.64 dL/g.

13. (Original) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 1, wherein the halogenated organic solvent comprises dichloromethane.

14. (Original) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 13, wherein the halogenated organic solvent consists essentially of dichloromethane.

15. (Original) A pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 1, wherein the admixing of the buffered aqueous solution of PVA with the buprenorphine-PLGA-halogenated organic solvent mixture comprises sonication.

16. (Currently Amended) A formulation according to claim 1, wherein the ~~recovering~~ recovering comprises at least one of the group consisting of sedimentation and lyophilization.

17. (Currently Amended) A process for making a pharmaceutical formulation for extended release of buprenorphine from microspheres, said process comprising: admixing PLGA having a first specific viscosity between about 0.01 and about 0.31 dL/g with PLGA having a second specific viscosity between about 0.40 and about 0.88 dL/g to form a PLGA mixture; admixing the PLGA mixture with a halogenated organic solvent to form a PLGA-halogenated organic solvent mixture; admixing the PLGA-halogenated organic solvent mixture with buprenorphine to form a buprenorphine-PLGA-halogenated organic solvent mixture; admixing a buffered aqueous solution of PVA with the buprenorphine-PLGA-halogenated organic solvent mixture to form an emulsion comprising microspheres, said microspheres comprising buprenorphine; recovering at least one of said microspheres from the emulsion.

18. (Original) A process according to claim 17, wherein the buffered aqueous solution of PVA comprises at least one of the group consisting of sodium phosphate and potassium phosphate.

19. (Original) A process according to claim 17, wherein the buprenorphine consists essentially of buprenorphine free base.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a mammal in which treatment with buprenorphine is indicated, said method comprising the step of administering to the mammal a pharmaceutically effective quantity of buprenorphine-containing microspheres

prepared by a process comprising: admixing PLGA between about 0.01 and about 0.31 dL/g having a first specific viscosity with PLGA having a second specific viscosity between about 0.40 and about 0.88 dL/g to form a PLGA mixture; admixing the PLGA mixture with a halogenated organic solvent to form a PLGA-halogenated organic solvent mixture; admixing the PLGA-halogenated organic solvent mixture with buprenorphine to form a buprenorphine-PLGA-halogenated organic solvent mixture; admixing a buffered aqueous solution of PVA with the buprenorphine-PLGA-halogenated organic solvent mixture to form an emulsion comprising microspheres, said microspheres comprising buprenorphine; recovering at least one of said microspheres from the emulsion.